

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 18, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 14, 22, and 54 are amended, claims 3, 8, 21, 29, and 57 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-7, 9-20, 22-28, 54-56, 58-60, and 67-69 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-7, 14-20, 22-28, 54-56 and 58-60 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maiti et al. (U.S. 6,020,024) in view of Dalal et al. (U.S. 4,797,593).

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 14, 22, and 54 to incorporate dependent claim language that was indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

Applicant has amended independent claim 58 to include oxidizing the metal layer to form a metal oxide layer on the body region, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing using a krypton (Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process. Applicant is unable to find at least this feature in either the Maiti or the Dalal reference.

Because the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not show every element of Applicant's independent claims, a 35 USC § 103(a) rejection is not supported by the references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested with respect to Applicant's independent claims 1, 14, 22, 54, and 58. Additionally, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested with respect to the remaining claims that depend therefrom as depending on allowable base claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 21, 29 and 57 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 8, 21, 29 and 57. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 14, 22, and 54 to include

the language of claims 8, 21, 29 and 57. Applicant respectfully submits that pursuant to the Examiner's indications, independent claims 1, 14, 22, and 54 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 9-13 and 67-69 were allowed. Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 9-13 and 67-69.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6944 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.


Respectfully submitted,

KIE Y. AHN ET AL.

By their Representatives,

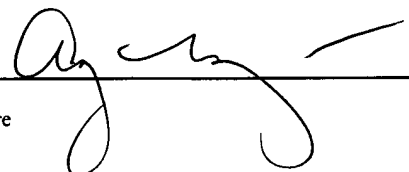
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 373-6944

Date 6-18-04

By 
David C. Peterson
Reg. No. 47,857

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 18th day of June, 2004.

Amy Moriaty
Name


Signature